

A BIG STRIKE POSSIBLE

BETWEEN 30,000 AND 60,000 MEN MAY BE INVOLVED.

STEAMFITTERS AND HELPERS EMPLOYED BY
FIRMS BELONGING TO THE MASTER FITTER
ASSOCIATION RECEIVE NOTICE THAT

THEY MUST SIGN NEW RULES IF
THEY WISH TO CONTINUE AT
WORK—LOOKED UPON AS
A LOCKOUT.

What is looked upon by organized labor as a practical lockout of nearly all the union men employed in one of the principal building trades in this city will be in effect this morning.

In this city will go into effect this morning. As a result in the sympathetic strike of thousands of employed men, the steamfitters and helpers were locked out are the steamfitters and helpers employed by firms belonging to the Master Steam and Hot Water Fitters' Association, and number about 1,000. On applying for their wages on Saturday night the men each received a copy of the following notice:

Inasmuch as the agreement heretofore existing between the Master Fitters' Association and the Enterprise and Progress Association, and the Master Steam and Hot Water Fitters' Association, the latter being the last-named associations, the Master Steam and Hot Water Fitters' Association has decided to withdraw from the Enterprise and Progress Association. Therefore each and every steamfitter or steamfitter's helper who wishes to continue in our employment must sign a new agreement with the Enterprise and Progress Association, and sign our new rules before going to work.

The notice was considered a lockout by steamfitters and helpers yesterday, and the majority

of them, he was not seen asserted that they knew of no good reason why it should have been issued. A member of the Steamfitters' union finally said that he supposed the lockout was due to the steamfitters going on strike at the Columbia University buildings and other structures because of the union's fight with the city board of education for the control of the three

At the request of the Amalgamated Association of Plumbers and Gasfitters Bishop-Potter had consented to act as arbitrator, and at a special meeting of the Board of Walking Delegates on Friday last a committee was ap-

William J. O'Brien, president of the Board of Walking Delegates, said yesterday that the Master Fitters' Association had already violated the agreement made with its men by subletting

contract to non-union firms. He said that G. A. Suter & Co., who had the contract for the steamfitting work on the new buildings of Columbia University, submit the thermostat

The steamfitters' union will undoubtedly, it is said, refuse to sign the new shop rules of the master steamfitters unless the members have

time to consider them, and none of the steamfitters employed by the firms in the association will go to work to-day. The union will be backed up in its fight by every building trades organization represented in the Board of Walking Delegates.

and general strikes will be ordered wherever non-union steamfitter or plumber is put to work. The result, it is feared, will be the ordering of strikes on every building now being erected in the city, and from 30,000 to 60,000

men may be involved in them. As the Master Masons' Association has already declared its belief that the plumbers' union which is now affiliated with the Board of Working Delegates is in the right in its fight with the steamfitters, a great struggle appears to be imminent.

The Master Fitters' Association controls about three-fourths of the steamfitting work done in the city, and among the firms in the association

tion are Baker & Smith, Gibbs & Geoghegan, Morris & Johnson, Blake & Williams, J. Curran & Co., the Mercer Company, Frank Dobson & Co., and Enoch Rutzler. The association's agreement with its men did not expire until next August. The firms in the association paid the union rate of wages, \$3.50 a day, to fitters and \$2 a day to helpers. The men worked eight hours a day.

A NUMBER OF CHANGES MADE BY THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

Washington, March 28.—The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee were in session several hours to-day, and again to-night, considering amendments to the pending Tariff bill, some of which have been urged by those whose interests

which have been urged by those whose interests are affected by the schedules as originally agreed on while others have been suggested by the debate on the bill. A number of amendments were agreed on unanimously by the majority, and will be presented

in the House by Mr. Dingley before the vote is taken on Wednesday. There was nothing new added to the bill, said a member to-night, but the changes made were simply in the schedules already reported, and none of them are of great importance. These amendments were mainly in the way of changes in punctuation, classification and phrase-

Probably the most important amendment agreed on was to make the rates on nursery stock specific by the thousand cuttings, instead of uniform ad-

valorem, as they now are in the bill. The present rate in the bill is 30 per cent ad valorem, and the changes made fix a specific rate that will equal the ad valorem duty. This change was made on the representation of the nursery interests of the country, which contended that the pending rates were inimical

One amendment agreed on will reduce the rate of imports the like of which are not produced here and where no great interests will suffer from such rates. The duty on dates was reduced from 1½ cents per pound to ½ cent. There was no discussion looking to a possible postponement of the final vote on the bill to a later day than that now fixed because of the slow progress made in the House, and

members of the majority say the vote surely will be taken on that day.

NEW BRIDGE OVER NIAGARA'S GORGE.

A STEEL STRUCTURE COSTING \$500,000 OPEN FOR TRAFFIC.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., March 28 (Special).—

The new bridge, which was built immediately under the present structure without causing a day's interruption to traffic, has a span of 550 feet between the end piers, and a trussed span

at each end 115 feet long connects the arch with the bluff. The total length of the bridge, with its approaches, is over 1,100 feet, and the centre of the arch is over 225 feet above the water. The

steel ribs, or main arches, are four feet deep and three feet wide, and were shipped in twenty-five-ton sections from the Pennsylvania Bridge Company's shops, at Steelton, Penn., where the entire bridge was fashioned.

The bridge has two decks or floors. On the upper floor are two railway tracks, and on the lower

floor there is a wide central carriageway and room for a double trolley track, and sidewalks on each side. The width on the top is 50 feet. The lower floor is 57 feet wide, affording generous room for the various purposes to which it will be put. Six million pounds of steel were used in the construction of the bridge, and the load it is designed to carry is enormous. The arch will support the bridge for the entire time and

port on each upper track at the same time two locomotives of the heaviest kind, followed by trains weighing 3,500 pounds to the square foot of bridge, and, in addition, a load of 3,000 pounds a square foot on the lower floor. A feature of the upper floor will be sidewalks built outside of each track and between the tracks to facilitate the examination of trains by the customs inspectors. The bridge cost about \$500,000.

LAURADA AT THE BREAKWATER.
Delaware Breakwater, March 28.—The steamer Laurada is anchored off Wilmington Creek. The Revenue cutter Hamilton is here.

The British steamship Buffon, which arrived yesterday afternoon from Rio Janeiro, brought fourteen passengers. Among this number were two Canadian families of seven persons, who were

assisted home by the British Consul. They went to Brazil to better their condition, but owing to lack of employment were compelled to return home.